

NEUMANN, C. -1
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Examiner has stated that claims 7, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Also, claims 10-13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected claim 9 under 35 USC, §112, second paragraph.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9-10, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,657,550 to *Daher*. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,175,881 to *Schar*. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 23,

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and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,193,756 to Studer.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 4 and allowable claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the above cited references taken either singly or in combination. In addition, because dependent claims 2-6, 9-10 and 15 depend from claim 1, these claims are also allowable.

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,657,550 to *Daher*. The Examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,176,881 to *Schar* in view of WO 01/070139 A3 to *Boyer*. The Examiner has rejected claims 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,193,756 to *Studer* in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0176925 to *Paponneau*. The Examiner has rejected claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Schar* in view of *Paponneau*.

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Claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 4 and allowable claim 7. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that since the above claims depend from claim 1, these claims are now allowable.

New claims 28 and 29 are also added. Claim 28 includes elements recited in claims original claim 1, claim 9 and allowable claim 10. Claim 29 includes elements recited in claims 1, 3, 18 and allowable claim 19. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable over the above cited references taken either singly or in combination.

In summary, claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended, claims 4 and 7 have been canceled and new claims 28 and 29 have been added. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Collard & Roe P.C.'s deposit account 03-2468 for the additional claims fee for two additional dependent claims for a small entity. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

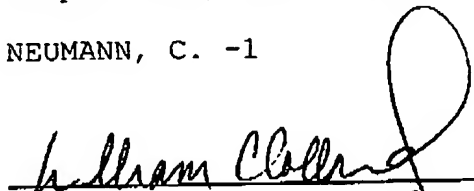
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Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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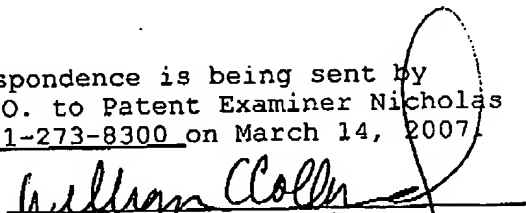
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Enclosure(s):

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Fax No. 571-273-8300

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile transmission to the U.S.P.T.O. to Patent Examiner Nicholas Woodall at Group No. 3733-9186, to 571-273-8300 on March 14, 2007.


William C. Collard